

Focus on Fifth

Weekly News for Holmes Fifth-Grade Families

News and Events in the 5th Grade

November 17, 2014

www.op97.org

Important Dates

November 19

Picture Retake Day

November 25

Outdoor Education permission slip due

December 4

Specials Showcase

December 9-10

Outdoor Education

News

Holiday Donations

Ms. Krikau and Ms. O'Malley are spearheading a collection for needy families in our community. All contributions are very much appreciated. Students who donate will receive a small prize.

Number Hawks Volunteer Opportunity

Holmes is looking for volunteers to tutor students, primarily in Grades K-2, to become proficient mathematicians. Through strategically planned lessons and continuous data collection, you will help Holmes students increase their basic number sense. Can you commit to as little as 20 minutes one day per week or as much as 30 minutes every day? Please fill out the Google form (link below) so that you can be contacted about a tutoring training session and mandatory background check required by the district.

"Number Hawks" are set to take flight this November.

https://docs.google.com/a/op97.org/forms/d/1clY-Wvw9mWrvGmEB6reqPTRdvWyR48H5eQ8J7Jhh_sg/viewform

Outdoor Education Field Trip

This year's overnight trip will be on December 9 - 10. Permission slips are due November 25. The cost of this field trip is \$70. You may pay online or by check payable to District 97. We want every 5th grade student to be able to attend this trip, so if the cost of this trip will cause undue hardship, please contact Maria Pascarella (our school's social worker) or your child's homeroom teacher so that we can work something out.

Typing Practice

Students can log on to Custom Typing from home to practice keyboarding skills. The Custom Typing program is accessible from the District's website, and students should begin practicing keyboarding skills at home. The link is:

<http://www.op97.org/technology/Custom-Typing.cfm>

THE SPECIALS SHOWCASE IS THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4th! Please fill out the permission slip below- so we know what students will attend.

[PERMISSION SLIP LINK](#)

Art - [www.http://owholmesartgallery.blogspot.com](http://owholmesartgallery.blogspot.com) This week we are finishing our clay relief sculptures. They have been fired and we will be using black tempera paint and crayons to emphasize the designs we created in the clay. We are also beginning a printmaking unit. We are learning about the abstract, geometrical patterns found in Islamic artwork. We are using an eraser as a printing plate to create a stamp that we will print forty-eight times, creating a very detailed pattern.

Music - <http://makingmusicatholmes.blogspot.com/> Our **specials showcase on December 4th!** Please save the date and fill out the [permission slip online](#)

Chorus and Gold Belt - Congratulations on a wonderful first performance! It was a beautifully touching concert and I look forward to many more. Stay tuned for details on a possible January concert! <http://makingmusicatholmes.blogspot.com/> . Just click on the chorus or gold belt tab.

Spanish - The students have been working with two new stories in preparation for specials night, *Juan El Bombero y Carlos y los 3 Monstruos*. We will be assigning roles for the event and practicing, practicing, and practicing in these upcoming weeks. <http://www.mpoleski.blogspot.com/> .

Library - We are continuing our research project on the hydrosphere. Students have been asked to find two or three short articles that further address specific ways humans affect the hydrosphere. Ask your student about what he or she is learning in library this week! Reading Olympians: Please continue to read! The Holmes competition is **Wednesday, December 3**. We will meet this Wednesday, November 19th during the recess portion of lunch/recess. Students must check in with me, and then are welcome to read in the library with their teams. Please email mmaneck@op97.org with any questions. For more information, the library home page is <http://www.op97.org/holmes/mediacenter/> .

Physical Education - Coming for the entire month of November is HEARTLAND ADVENTURE. The kids go through a maze of obstacles as they explore the circulatory and respiratory systems (www.d97mrwilliams.blogspot.com)

Reading/Literature

This week, reading mini lessons will center around studying the characters in fiction texts. Students will learn that main characters always have connections to the other characters in a book. Students will apply this learning by creating a "Character Connections" chart in their Reader's Notebook. The chart describes the important characters in the students' novels as well as the connections between the main character and the other characters. Other mini lesson topics will include growing theories about characters, expecting complications in characters, and attending to objects that reveal characters.

Writing

We will continue to create lists of "seeds" for personal narrative stories and try out quick versions of these stories by writing notebook entries of these small, important moments. We will also review strategies for writing strong narratives by telling stories step-by-step using actions, descriptions, thoughts, and dialogue.

Math

In math today, we reviewed volume concepts in preparation for tomorrow's end of unit assessment. We will spend the remainder of the week reviewing multi-digit multiplication and evaluating expressions with parentheses. Next week, we will begin our unit on fractions.

All students have developed action plans to help them achieve their winter MAP goal. If you haven't yet reviewed your child's action plan, please do, and have your student return the signed action plan to his/her teacher. Students should be completing their action plan items in addition to daily homework.

Science

In science this week, we will continue work on our short research project. We also will conduct an experiment on grass that we planted within the past two weeks to observe the difference between water collection on pavement and on turf. This will illustrate the danger of developing natural lands with concrete.

Social Studies

In this week we will be wrapping up our study of Native Americans. We will watch a virtual tour that recreates what it would have been like to visit a Wampanoag home. We also will read some Native American folktales and discuss their themes.

Spelling/Word Study

Students will complete our Building Vocabulary with Root Words curriculum during their Reading/Literature block.

Visit the **Holmes Digital Backpack** - <http://www.op97.org/holmes/digitalbackpack/>

We're on the Web!

Visit us at: <http://holmes5thgrade.wikispaces.com/>

Mr. Finkbeiner
afinkbeiner@op97.org

Ms. Kraft
fkraft@op97.org

Ms. Manuel
mmanuel@op97.org

Mr. Porter
cporter@op97.org